

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THESSA 00519 281614Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W

----- 120387

R 281345Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2426

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECEM, SNEV, PGOV, ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: ETHYL-HELLAS SITUATION--WHERE IT STANDS

REF: THESSALONIKI 0502 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: ETHYL-HELLAS THESSALONIKI PLANT REOPENED AUGUST 25 ON BASIS UNDERSTANDING THAT WORKERS WOULD RETURN TO PIER 5 OF PORT. WORKERS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT RETURNED AND ETHYL WILL BE FORCED CLOSE PLANT UNLESS PIER REOPENED TO GIVE ETHYL USE OF ITS FACILITIES ON IT BY SEPTEMBER 1. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE CONSISTENT FACTOR IN ETHYL-HELLAS SITUATION HAS BEEN CONFUSION SURROUNDING IT. LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT IN MEETING AUG 22 BETWEEN MINISTERS OF LABOR, INDUSTRY, MERCHANT MARINE AND NORTHERN GREECE, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF PORT WORKERS AND ETHYL HELLAS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT WORK AT PIER 5 WOULD RESUME ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS. THESE INCLUDED IMPOSITION OF ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES, THE FINAL REMOVAL OF ETHYL FACILITIES FROM PIER 5 WITHIN 9 MONTHS, AND VISIT BY WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND PORT OFFICIALS TO SIMILAR ETHYL FACILITIES IN ROTTERDAM AND CADIS, SPAIN. ON BASIS THIS AGREEMENT ETHYL REOPENED PLANT AUGUST 25. PORT WORKERS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT RETURNED TO PIER 5

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THESSA 00519 281614Z

AND ETHYL, WHICH HAS BEEN LOADING ITS PRODUCTS IN TRUCKS

AND RAILROAD TANK CARS, WILL HAVE FILLED EVERY AVAILABLE  
RENEPTACLE BY SEPTEMBER 1 AND WILL THEN BE FORCED  
SHUT DOWN AGAIN UNLESS PIER 5 REOPENED. ETHYL-HELLAS  
OFFICIALS, IN MEETING WITH CONSUL GENERAL AUGUST 27,  
PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF REASON WORK HAD NOT RESUMED  
ON PIER 5. ONLY EXPLANATION THEY COULD OFFER WAS  
SUGGESTION THAT LABOR LEADERS WANT TO MAKE TRIP ABROAD  
BEFORE RESUMING WORK.

3. ETHYL REPS, HOWEVER, ALSO SAY THAT THEY UNDERSTAND  
ON BASIS OF CONVERSATION WITH HEAD OF LOCAL ETHYL UNION  
THAT PORT WORKERS ARE READY TO RETURN PIER 5. IN ANY  
EVENT, ETHYL IS CERTAIN THAT ITS EMPLOYEES WOULD  
RETURN TO ETHYL FACILITIES ON PIER 5 IF ALLOWED TO  
DO SO AND THIS WOULD PERMIT ETHYL PLANT TO CONTINUE  
OPERATION. ETHYL MANAGING DIRECTOR WAS TO MEET WITH  
MINISTER OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS EVENING OF AUG 27  
AND ASK FOR PERMISSION TO SEND ETHYL EMPLOYEES TO COMPANY'S  
FACILITIES ON PIER BUT WE HAVE HEARD NO REPORT OF  
THIS MEETING.

4. ETHYL REPRESENTATIVES ALSO MAINTAIN THAT IN  
AUGUST 22 MEETING THEY NEVER AGREED TO REMOVAL OF  
ETHYL FACILITIES WITHIN 9 MONTHS. IN FACT, ETHYL  
MAINTAINS, AS IT ALWAYS HAS, THAT THIS WOULD BE  
PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

5. THESSALONIKI HARBOR MASTER, CMDR ELIADES, IN MEETING

AUGUST 28 WITH POL/ECON OFFICER, SAID THAT REASON  
PIER 5 HAS NOT REOPENED IS THAT MINISTRY OF MERCHANT  
MARINE WITHHOLDING ITS APPROVAL PENDING INSTALLATION  
BY ETHYL OF AGREED-UPON ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES.  
ITEM IN LOCAL PRESS, HOWEVER, SASS THAT IT IS WORKERS  
WHO ARE REFUSING TO RETURN TO WORK UNTIL ETHYL IMPLEMENTS  
ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS.

6. MOST REFRESHING NOTE OF ENTIRE SITUATION IS  
ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED BY COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF  
PORT WORKERS' UNIONS SUGGESTING THAT PEOPLE WHO DO  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 THESSA 00519 281614Z

NOT BELONG TO UNIONS SHOULD MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS.  
SPECIFICALLY, THEY SHOULD STOP MEDDLING IN OTHER  
PEOPLES' AFFAIRS AND THAT UNION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE  
RIGHT OF ANY OUTSIDER TO INTERVENE IN ORDER TO PROTECT.

IN APPEARANCE ONLY, RIGHTS OF PORT WORKERS.  
ANNOUNCEMENT CLEARLY DIRECTED AT PASOK AND LOCAL COMMUNITY  
ENTITIES WHO HAVE USED ISSUE TO GET IN PRESS WITH

STRIDENT CALLS FOR ETHYL'S REMOVAL. ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO  
SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT WORKERS ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS  
IN GOOD FAITH RESUMPTION OF WORK ON PIER 5.  
BRENNAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, LABOR STRIKES, ACCESS TO PORTS, PORT FACILITIES, PUBLIC HEALTH, WORKING CONDITIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975THESSA00519  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750299-0077  
**From:** THESSALONIKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975087/aaaaagcr.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 THESSALONIKI 502  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ETHYL-HELLAS SITUATION--WHERE IT STANDS  
**TAGS:** ECEM, SENV, PGOV, ELAB, GR, ETHYL HELLAS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006